



**Town of Marshville**  
**Town Council Work Session**  
**Monday, February 20, 2023 7 PM**  
**Marshville Town Hall**  
**118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103**

**In Attendance:** Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton; Council Member Monaca Marshall, Council Member Paulette Blakeney

**Absent:** Council Member Margaret Bivens

**Staff Attendance:** Town Manager Franklin Deese, Town Clerk Ann Sutton

**Work Session Minutes**

**Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Smith. Mayor Smith gave the invocation. Everyone shared the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**Adoption Work Session Agenda:** Mayor Smith made an exception of voting during work sessions for the importance of reappointment for the three members of the ABC commission. Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton made a motion. Council Member Monaca Marshall seconded. All Ayes. Motion Passed.

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton. Council Member Monaca Marshall seconded. All Ayes. Motion Passed.

**Discussion Concerning Street Inspections:**

The council was sent out to inspect streets for significant improvements and fixes that needed to be handled. One street in particular brought up was South Elm Street. It was determined that it is an NCDOT street which is not the town's responsibility. Town Manager Deese said he has reached out to DOT about South Elm and White Street repairs, and there has been no response. Manager Deese said the DOT responds better to citizen complaints more quickly. Mayor Smith asked what is in our power to fix DOT roads if it is a serious hazard. Manager Deese said he would send someone out to assess the problem, and if there is a small fix, they can try to do so but can't afford to fix all the roads that aren't the towns.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked if Hasty Road was considered a town road. It was a DOT road. Mayor Smith explained that there is a map of the DOT roads on their website to help determine what a town road or DOT road is. Ernestine Staton was asked if Cherio Lane was too short for a speed bump. Town Manager Deese stated there would need to be a petition by the citizens asking for the speed bump and then have public works inspect and determine if it meets the criteria required.

Mayor Smith asked Town Manager about the policy of street lights. Town Manager Deese said that the town leases from Duke Energy. If the lights are over the streets, the town pays for it. Mayor Smith was approached about the dark roads along Brewer Street, Prosperity, and Gulf Bay street. Town Manager said it would need to be looked into. If the lights are indeed out, Duke Energy has a system placed on its website to report outages. Town Manager suggested having a collection of information on the town website for maintenance to be accessible for the public to use.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton brought up the pothole on Forest Drive. Mayor Smith said the town owns only a small portion of Forest Drive. The question of how to let the citizens know that the town is not responsible for that part of the road. Town Manager said he could look into the procedure to take ownership of the streets. A collection of roads that need to be worked on will be sent to Town Manager to research before reporting to the council to make decisions.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton talked about having the Community Strong Committee possibly help with trash pickup and would speak with Lakeysha about doing so.

Council Member Monaca Marshall said there was lots of glass on Ross Road on the right side of the road. Mayor Smith said it might be outside of town limits. The town Manager would have public works look into it.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton said there is grass growing in the gutters by Southern States and Speedway. The collapsed gutter and curb on Elizabeth needs to be reported again.

### **Summary of Marshville Town Council Meeting:**

#### **1. Plan Activities for Community Center**

Mayor Pro-tem Staton had a plan for an event for Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm. There would be reading his books, drawing, and painting for ages 5-8. She will speak to Lakeysha about making snack bags to hand out to the children. Town Manager said about 46-50 people could be in the community center with chairs and tables. Mayor Pro-tem Staton said the town would supply the snacks for the events. Council Marshall said the schools want to be given the flyers to hand out to the kids to take home so parents can sign up for the events.

Mayor Smith suggested indoor-sponsored events like Bingo every third Thursday and educational events. For example, in December, have someone come and talk to senior citizens about Medicare enrollment.

Town Manager Deese expressed that it would be better for the community to host rather than the town staff.

#### **2. Create Community Farmer's Market**

Town Manager Deese said he would contact Union County for information about their farmer's market and get ideas on how it works. One person contacted has Lakeysha about interest in the farmer's market. Council Marshall said it should be a self-providing farmer's market. There will be a need for a policy for cleanup and maintenance of the grounds.

### **3. Engage Downtown Stakeholders in Collective Short-term Vision**

Mayor Smith suggested an evening with the mayor to listen and have a brief discussion about downtown with the stakeholders. It can be an informal gathering, so the council is optional to be present.

Mayor Smith wants to put the grant to be put to use. Town Manager stated there are limitations. It cannot be used for landscaping, permanent seating, or billboards. It will broaden the sidewalk and pave the parking lot. The sidewalk may or may not be able to be widened. The town Manager will talk to DOT about a three-way stop at Union and N. Elm street. Interested in placing concrete bumpers in the parking lot to help organize the lot.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton spoke of interest in an annual vision meeting to include the public to allow input on what they would like to see around town. Council will have the final decision on the matter.

### **4. Develop Plan for Inviting Downtown Lighting**

Council Marshall brought up the fact that downtown is very dark and uninviting. Town Manager expressed that Duke Energy will replace the outage for lights. Otherwise, payment is needed. The budget would have to be allocated for the improvement of lighting.

### **5. Initiate Town Clean up**

Town Manager said there will be a plan brought to the board with a date for implementation.

### **Discussion about July 4<sup>th</sup> Firework**

Town Manager Deese informed of the cost of \$6,300 for 15 minutes of fireworks for the event and wanted to make sure it was okay to continue. Council agreed with moving forward.

### **Marshville 2035 Plan**

Town Manager Deese sent out the plan electronically to be looked over by the council for any changes to be made.

**Manager Comments:**

Town Manager Deese in discussions with Anson County about the sewer system. Was allotted 4 million for the regionalization project. Before anything happens a need for inner local agreement and plan. The council will approve and send it to LCG. Funding must be allocated by December 2024 and spent by December 2023. Found an old agreement that was sent to the Town Attorney to be adjusted before the new agreement is brought to the council for approval.

Town Manager Deese asked Mayor Smith if he would be attending the ribbon cutting from Union County for a wedding venue on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mayor Smith expressed he had not planned.

Town Manager Deese asked the council again for a tally of who would be attending the Chamber annual banquet.

Met with a representative of NC Museum of Art about an artist innovation mentorship. Will bring more information to the council.

Handed out flyers containing the events for 2023

**Council Comments:**

Council Blakeney: Happy to see everyone and wished everyone a blessed week.

Council Marshall: Excited about the targets for the 2023/2024 year and activities.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton: Need to decide on whether we want to remain in CRPTO or find another organization to be a part of. Town Manager said he has a zoom meeting with Robert Cook at 2 pm to discuss options and bring back information for the council to make a decision.

**Mayor Comments:**

Mayor Smith asked about the open carry signage at the park. Town Manager Deese directed Police Chief to remove the signs from the park. The next step is to figure out where the signs can be placed within compliance.

Mayor Smith asked about the vacancy of positions. Town Manager Deese said they are still looking for people for the finance director, public works, and police officer positions. The town clerk position has been filled and starts March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Smith asked if the Census data had been released. Town Manager Deese believed the data had been released but will double-check to be sure.

Mayor Smith asked for information about phone and data availability in the town, and also fiber optics for businesses. Possibly bring in people to come in and talk to the council about what is out there.

## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was given by Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton. Seconded by Council Monaca Marshall. All Ayes.